

***Thalictrum dasycarpum* Fisch. & Ave-Lall.**

purple meadowrue

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1964): Dioecious perennial, the stems 24 to 48 inches tall, commonly somewhat branched above (simple). Leaves chiefly cauline, the lower and basal ones 3-5 times ternate, the leaflets ovate to cuneate-obovate, mostly $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, usually acutely 3-lobed, somewhat coriaceous, often slightly revolute, the upper surface dark green, the lower surface pale, strongly nerved, and generally somewhat short-hairy. Flowers paniculate. Sepals greenish-white. Stamens 18-25, the anthers slightly apiculate, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long, slightly shorter than the slender filaments. Achenes about 10, obliquely fusiform, oblanceolate, the body about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, strongly veined, narrowed to a short stipe $<\frac{1}{16}$ inch long, the persistent style and stigma forming a beak about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long.

Identification Tips: The leaves resemble columbine (*Aquilegia* spp.) and meadowrue (*Thalictrum occidentale*), although the leaves of *T. dasycarpum* are not as deeply lobed as those of the other species.

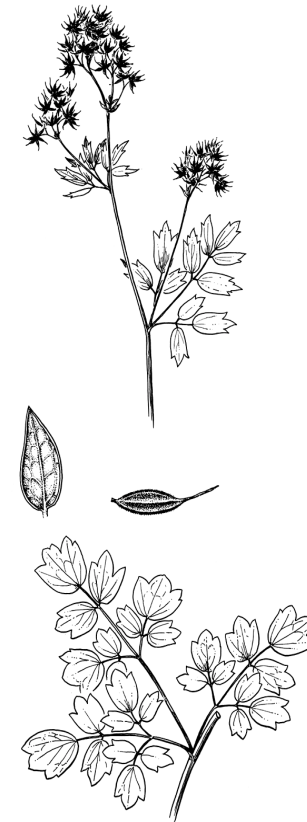
Phenology: Blooms May through July.

Range: Occurs in eastern British Columbia through Alberta and Saskatchewan to Ontario, south through the Missouri River Valley to Louisiana and Texas, and in the Rockies to New Mexico and Arizona. The species is rare in Idaho, Montana and Washington. In Washington, it is known only from Pend Oreille County in the Okanogan Highlands physiographic province.

Habitat: Deciduous riparian woods, damp thickets, swamps, and wet meadows, often adjacent to and/or within the floodplain. Elevations in Washington range from 2000 to 2200 feet. It occurs in association with hawthorn thickets (*Crataegus columbiana* and *C. douglasii*). Other associated species include *Populus trichocarpa*, *Symphoricarpos albus*, *Spiraea douglasii*, *Rosa* sp., *Phleum pratense*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Carex vesicaria*, *Carex aperta*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Lupinus* sp., and *Aster laevis*.

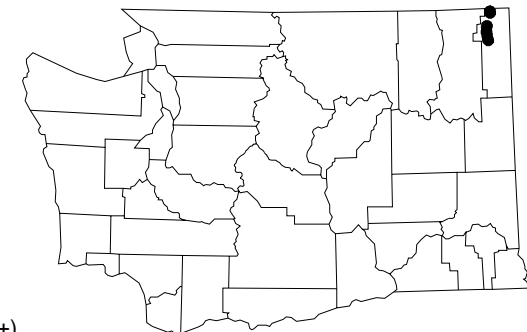
Thalictrum dasycarpum

purple meadowrue



©1964 University of Washington Press. Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish.

Known distribution of
Thalictrum dasycarpum
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

Thalictrum dasycarpum
purple meadowrue



Thalictrum dasycarpum
purple meadowrue

Ecology: *Thalictrum dasycarpum* is identified as a facultative wetland species (USFWS 1988). Its preference for floodplain habitats suggests that it is able to withstand periodic flooding.

State Status Comments: There are only 10 recent occurrences in Washington, all from a relatively small range.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed along the Pend Oreille River and on the periphery of the known range in Washington. The taxon grows within dense shrubs and can be easily overlooked.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats to the species include hydrologic alteration and construction.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 597 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1988. National list of vascular plant species that occur in wetlands. USFWS Biological Report 88 (24).

